

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 17-18, 24-30, and 33-43 are presently active; Claims 1-16 were previously canceled without prejudice. Claims 19-23 and 31-32 are presently canceled without prejudice. Claim 17 has been presently amended. No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 22 was objected to. Claims 17-19 and 24-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka ("Optically Induced Meandering Mie Particles Driven by the Beat of Coupled Guided Modes Produced in a Multimode Waveguide," Jap. Journal Of Applied Physics 2, vol. 41, no. 3A, pgs. L260-L262, 2002). Claims 20-23 were objected to for being dependent from a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Regarding the objection to the claims, Claim 22 was canceled. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to Claim 22 is moot.

Regarding the rejection on the merits, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 20-23. In an effort to expedite prosecution of this application, the subject matters of these claims have been included respectively in the presently presented independent claims.

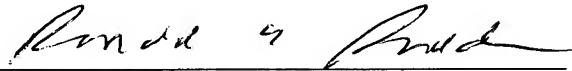
Hence, independent Claims 1, 33, 36, and 40 are believed to contain allowable subject matter not in Tanaka, and along with the dependent claims should be passed to allowance.

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Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussions, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Ronald A. Rudder
Registration No. 45,618
Attorneys of Record

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 03/06)

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